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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 17432 01 OF 02 131713Z
ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-13	AID-01	AMAD-01	CEA-01	CEQ-01	SJK-01
	COME-00	CTME-00	DINT-05	DOEE-00	DS-00	EB-01	E-01
	FRB-03	HA-09	H-01	INM-01	INRE-00	INR-01	JUSE-00
	L-03	ADS-00	MMP-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OES-09	OIG-01
	OMB-01	OPIC-08	PA-01	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01	SCT-03
	SNP-01	SP-01	SS-01	STR-18	TRSE-00	T-01	USIE-00
	FMP-01	EPAE-00	/094W				

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P 131516Z NOV 91
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0116
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
CIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BOGOTA 17432

SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINS, PTER, PINR, ASEC, EPET, ENRG, KPRP, CO
SUBJECT: ELN BACK TO ITS OLD TRICKS AGAINST PIPELINES
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PAGE 02 BOGOTA 17432 01 OF 02 131713Z

REF: BOGOTA 14433

1. (C) SUMMARY: AFTER A LULL OF TWO MONTHS, THE NATIONAL LIBERATION ARMY (ELN) GUERRILLA GROUP HAS RESUMED ITS TERRORIST WAR AGAINST THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY IN COLOMBIA, WITH NINE ATTACKS SINCE OCTOBER 21. THE ELN HIERARCHY HAS DECIDED TO ADD THE WEIGHT OF ITS INTIMIDATION TO PRESS THE GOVERNMENT TO EXPROPRIATE THE CUISIANA II PETROLEUM DISCOVERY IN CASANARE DEPARTMENT. THE ELN CAN BE EXPECTED TO KEEP UP THE PRESSURE UNTIL THE ISSUE, PRESENTLY BEFORE THE MINI-CONGRESS, IS

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J. OLSON
DATE/CASE ID: 30 OCT 2002 200201334

UNCLASSIFIED

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 Document Number: 1991BOGOTA17432

Page: 2

Channel: n/a

DECIDED. END SUMMARY.

2. (C) ELN ECONOMIC TERRORISM AGAINST THE COUNTRY'S PETROLEUM INDUSTRY HAS RESUMED AFTER A TWO-MONTH LULL, ACCORDING TO SHELL'S COLOMBIAN HEADQUARTERS. SHELL RECORDS NINE SUCH GUERRILLA ACTIONS IN THE THREE WEEKS SINCE OCTOBER 21, AFTER A QUIET PERIOD OF ONLY THREE ATTACKS IN THE PRECEDING TWO MONTHS.

3. (U) IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS, THE ELN'S TWO TOP RANKING LEADERS, POLITICAL CHIEF MANUEL PEREZ AND MILITARY CHIEF NICOLAS RODRIGUEZ ("GABINO"), RECENTLY THREATENED TERRORIST ACTION AGAINST THE COUNTRY'S PETROLEUM INSTALLATIONS IF THE GOVERNMENT FAILED TO EXPROPRIATE THE LAND UNDER WHICH THE RECENT PETROLEUM DISCOVERY, CUISIANA II, IN CASANARE DEPARTMENT, RESTS. BOGOTA DAILY EL NUEVO SIGLO NOVEMBER 5 QUOTED CHIEF ELN NEGOTIATOR IN CARACAS FRANCISCO GALAN AS SAYING TERRORISM WAS THE ONLY WAY TO PRESSURE THE NEW CONGRESS

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PAGE 03 BOGOTA 17432 01 OF 02 131713Z
 TO ACT SO THAT THE WEALTH OF CUISIANA BENEFITS THE
 NATION INSTEAD OF INDIVIDUALS OR FOREIGNERS.

4. (C) AS HAS BEEN THE CASE SINCE THE ELN BEGAN TARGETING OIL INSTALLATIONS IN 1984, MOST OF THE RECENT SABOTAGE (FIVE OF THE NINE INCIDENTS) HAS BEEN AGAINST ECOPETROL'S (THE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY) CANO LIMON-COVENAS CRUDE-OIL PIPELINE, WITH MOST OF THE REST AGAINST THE YET-TO-BE COMPLETED COLOMBIA CRUDE PIPELINE.

5. (C) FOLLOWING IS SHELL'S DESCRIPTION OF EACH ATTACK:

OCTOBER 21: AN AVERAGE-POWER BOMB CAUSED A 40-PERCENT DENT IN THE CANO LIMON-COVENAS PIPELINE IN CUBARA, NORTE DE SANTANDER DEPARTMENT.

OCTOBER 23: TWO AVERAGE-POWER BOMBS CAUSED DENTS OF 50 AND 20 PERCENT IN THE CANO LIMON-CONVENAS PIPELINE AT ARAUQUITA, ARAUCA DEPARTMENT.

OCTOBER 24: TWO VEHICLES BELONGING TO THE FRANCO-ARGENTINE ENGINEERING WORKS CONSORTIUM (COI), A CONTRACTOR WORKING ON THE COLOMBIA CRUDE-OIL PIPELINE, WERE STOPPED AND BURNED ON THE ROAD LINKING ZARAGOZA AND SEGOVIA IN NORTHEAST ANTIOQUIA DEPARTMENT.

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 2

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1991BOGOTA17432

Page: 3

Channel: n/a

OCTOBER 28: A BOMB CAUSED AN 80-PERCENT DENT IN THE
CANO LIMON-COVENAS PIPELINE AT SARAVENA, ARAUCA.

OCTOBER 29: IN BY FAR THE MOST MATERIALLY DAMAGING OF
THE ATTACKS, A HIGH-POWER BOMB CAUSED MAJOR DAMAGE TO
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PAGE 04 BOGOTA 17432 01 OF 02 131713Z
THE CANO LIMON-CONVENAS PIPELINE AT CONVENCION, NORTE DE
SANTANDER, CAUSING THE LOSS OF AN UNDETERMINED AMOUNT OF
CRUDE, WHICH CONTAMINATED TWO STREAMS THAT FEED THE
CATATUMBO RIVER, WHICH FLOWS INTO VENEZUELA'S LAKE
MARACAIBO. AUTHORITIES SUCCEEDED IN DEACTIVATING THREE
OTHER BOMBS DISCOVERED ALONG THE PIPELINE AT TIBU AND
CONVENCION (NORTE DE SANTANDER) AND CHIMICHAGUA (CESAR).

OCTOBER 29: A HELICOPTER BELONGING TO PETROLEUM
AIRLINES (LAP), UNDER SERVICE TO WESTERN PETROLEUM
COMPANY, WAS BOARDED BY INSURGENTS WHEN IT LANDED
SOMEWHERE BETWEEN URABA AND MAGDALENA MEDIO, ANTIOQUIA
DEPARTMENT. THE PILOT WAS THEN FORCED TO TAKE OFF FOR
AN UNKNOWN LOCATION. GUERRILLAS CONTINUE TO HOLD THE
PILOT AND THE TWO PASSENGERS, INCLUDING AN ENGINEER, ALL

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 17432 02 OF 02 131714Z
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0117
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Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 3

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL
 Current Handling: n/a
 Document Number: 1991BOGOTA17432

Page: 4

Channel: n/a

AMEMBASSY QUITO
 AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
 USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
 CIA WASHDC
 DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BOGOTA 17432

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 CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BOGOTA 17432 02 OF 02 131714Z

COLOMBIAN.

OCTOBER 30: FIVE BOMBS WENT OFF IN A CONNECTING CENTER OF THE COLOMBIA PIPELINE NEAR REMEDIOS, ANTIOQUIA, CAUSING PERFORATIONS IN 15 TUBES AND DENTS IN SIX OTHERS. AUTHORITIES MANAGED TO DEACTIVATE THREE OTHER BOMBS.

NOVEMBER 1: A BOMB OF AVERAGE POWER DENTED THE CANO LIMON-COVENAS PIPELINE NEAR CONVENCION, NORTE DE SANTANDER.

NOVEMBER 2: A VEHICLE BELONGING TO THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS WAS AMBUSHED ON THE ROAD BETWEEN REMEDIOS AND SEGOVIA, ANTIOQUIA, WHILE IT WAS PATROLING THE COLOMBIA PIPELINE. ONE ARMY OFFICER AND THREE ENLISTED MEN WERE KILLED; THREE OTHER PASSENGERS WERE WOUNDED AND THREE DISAPPEARED.

6. (C) ACCORDING TO SHELL FIGURES, THE RECENT INCIDENTS BRING TO 194 THE NUMBER OF TERRORIST ACTIONS AGAINST THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY IN COLOMBIA IN 1991. THE INSURGENTS' FAVORITE TARGET HAS BEEN THE COUNTRY'S CRUDE-OIL PIPELINES, WHICH HAVE SUFFERED 78 BOMBINGS, AS OPPOSED TO ONLY 24 AGAINST GASOLINE PIPELINES AND 10 AGAINST NATURAL GAS PIPELINES. INDEED, THE ELN HAS STUCK TO ITS SEPTEMBER 11 PLEDGE TO LAY OFF GASOLINE AND NATURAL-GAS PIPELINES (REFTEL). CRUDE-OIL PIPELINES ARE A DIFFERENT STORY, HOWEVER. THE ELN WANTS REFINERIES BUILT IN COLOMBIA; IT DOES NOT WANT COLOMBIAN CRUDE SHIPPED TO

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 4

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1991BOGOTA17432

Page: 5
Channel: n/a

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BOGOTA 17432 02 OF 02 131714Z
OVERSEAS INSTALLATIONS. THE ELN HAS VOWED TO PREVENT
COMPLETION OF THE COLOMBIA PIPELINE.

7. (C) COMMENT: THE ELN PROBABLY WILL MAINTAIN ITS
RESUMPTION OF STEADY ATTACKS AGAINST COLOMBIA'S
PETROLEUM INDUSTRY TO PRESSURE THE GOVERNMENT TO
EXPROPRIATE THE CUISIANA II PROPERTIES. THE INTERIM
CONGRESS PRESENTLY IS DEBATING A PROPOSAL TO CLARIFY THE
SUBSOIL RIGHTS OF THE AREA. END COMMENT.

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Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 5

UNCLASSIFIED